

activities in the workplace. Union organizing is not an illegal activity. This bill would overturn a unanimous Supreme Court decision which provided that a union organizer should be treated as an employee as long as union organizing does not interfere with his or her service to the employer. This bill singles out the National Labor Relations Board for the unreasonable burden of paying all attorney's fees of all prevailing parties in judicial proceedings, regardless of whether the boards position was justified.

Mr. Speaker, this is not fairness for employees. This is an unfair gag on working people. I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful legislation.

RAISING THE AWARENESS OF FIBROMYALGIA

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise the awareness of a debilitating illness that currently affects more than five million Americans—fibromyalgia.

Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is a chronic, widespread musculoskeletal pain and fatigue disorder that afflicts two percent of the general population. There is no known cause for FMS, a disease whose symptoms—in addition to the pain and fatigue—include chronic headaches, cognitive or memory impairments, and decreased endurance. FMS can be as disabling as rheumatoid arthritis, and while 24 percent of rheumatoid arthritis sufferers are classified as disabled, FMS is not recognized in the Social Security Disability Law.

A majority of FMS patients are female, and symptoms may begin in young, school-aged children. The average person spends five years and thousands of dollars in medical bills just to receive a diagnosis—all because few physicians possess the education to diagnose and treat FMS. In fact, prior to diagnosis, often 60 percent of patients with FMS undergo costly and unsuccessful surgeries. Tragically, even with a diagnosis there is no single therapeutic agent capable of controlling the symptoms of FMS.

Mr. Speaker, it is overwhelmingly apparent that awareness of this disease must be increased so as to ease the suffering of millions of Americans. Research funding for Fibromyalgia at the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin disease measured out to only 0.6 percent of their annual budget in 1996. Unfortunately, very little grant money is awarded because awareness of this problem is so low. The time has come to address this obstacle so that the proper attention can finally be given to fibromyalgia sufferers. I challenge the medical and research communities to work toward increasing awareness and promoting treatments for fibromyalgia.

TOWN OF ONONDAGA CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as a newly born nation expanded and grew two centuries ago, townships in America sprouted amidst the excitement of freedom and despite great obstacles. Such was the founding experience of my home town, the Town of Onondaga, which this week celebrates its 200th Birthday.

Although many of the festivities will occur this summer, culminating with a Bicentennial Parade on August 15, many proud residents are focused now on the Annual Dinner Dance April 4.

On behalf of our forefathers and generations to follow, I would like to thank the entire Town of Onondaga Bicentennial Committee for their important and historic work. I would ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these civic leaders for their dedication to preserving the history which guides us into the future.

They are: L. Jane Tracy, town historian and co-chair; Thomas Andino, town supervisor and co-chair; Charles Petrie; David and Cathy Hintz; Kenneth Pienkowski; Gwynn Morey; Beatrice Malfitano, dinner dance chair; Mr. and Mrs. Willie Royal; Bonnie Romano; Dr. Gary Livent; Suzanne Belle; Mary Ryan; Donald Hamilton; Dorothea Schmitz; Leo Kelly; Dr. Arthur Dube; Margaret Boyd; Sherman V. Saunders; Mary Nowyj; Cara Burton; Jeff Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keegan; and Daniel Willis.

On a related note, I am very proud to be one of three Onondaga residents in town history to have represented Central New York in Congress. The others included my father, William F. Walsh, and one of the first settlers, James Geddes, who also served as Town Supervisor in 1799.

I am pleased also to mark this memorable time for all Town of Onondaga families in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this date, forever preserving this memorable time.

Together, we in the Town of Onondaga thank God for our freedom, our country and our homes—just as we pray that we will impress on the next generation the importance of what the Founders of our nation and our town accomplished and the magnitude of the task. Only from history will we learn.

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTEENTH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE NAM VETS ASSOCIATION OF THE CAPE AND ISLANDS, INC.

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to a remarkable institution located in my Congressional District, that through years of hard work and sacrifice has become one of the premier social service centers for Vietnam-era veterans in the country.

For the past fifteen years, the Nam Vets Association of the Cape and Islands has pro-

vided a haven in Hyannis, Massachusetts for the veterans throughout our region. I would like to recount the story of how this organization was created by a handful of men, and how it has since affected so many lives.

In 1983, after viewing the unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, five Vietnam vets from Cape Cod decided to create an organization to address the human service needs of veterans at home. The five leased a small room staffed by a single volunteer to provide peer counseling. Today, the association purchased its own building and developed it into a well-equipped, one-stop Veterans Service Center that distributes over 55,000 meals annually from its food pantry, and provides over 1,300 units of social services a month.

The Nam Vets Association stepped in to provide desperately needed services that the state was not equipped to supply. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted Nam Vets a contract to oversee the delivery of these services but required a \$10,000 balance in the association's account before disbursing any funds. Short on cash, but not on valor, James Michael Trainor, then the group's president, mortgaged his own home to obtain the funds to ensure that the necessary care would be delivered to Cape and Islands vets.

The Nam Vets have also struggled through times when there was no state support. When the Commonwealth rescinded funding due to state budget constraints, the association's Board of Directors, made personal loans to cover staff salaries and maintain operations without interruption.

Over the past decade and a half, the Nam Vets Association has opened its doors to all local veterans. As the executive director John Eastman said, "Let no generation of veterans ever forget another generation of veterans." The Outreach Center has become a major health care facility—providing prescription drugs, psychiatric diagnosis, and follow-up counseling. For years, the Center was the only place on the Cape and Islands where these types of services were made available to veterans.

The Nam Vets have also become deeply involved in addressing the problem of adequate housing by providing assistance to vets and their families in finding affordable shelter. In 1993, working with the Barnstable Housing Authority, Nam Vets won a HUD Section 8 Single Room Occupancy Program grant to address the needs of the area's single homeless vets. The structure that became the SRO is affectionately known as "The Homestead" and was originally intended to house 40 to 60 homeless veterans. Since 1994 it has processed over 300 applications. The Nam Vets Association also participates in the VA's Homeless Provider Program which markets foreclosed properties at a discount to non profit agencies. Nam Vets has successfully found two homes for needy families through this program and is currently looking for other affordable homes to meet demand.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Convention recently acknowledged something I have known all along, that the Nam Vets Association is worthy of national attention. The Convention honored the Nam Vets with the 1997 Community Service Chapter of the Year award for their outstanding commitment and for the variety of the services they provide to the community.